IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) An infection management system, comprising:

a catheter with a lumen extending therethrough;

a side-arm tube extending laterally from a side of the catheter, wherein

the side-arm tube is located in a region of the catheter which remains outside a patient's body, and

a lumen through the side-arm tube communicates with the catheter lumen;

a one-way valve which prevents fluid flow from the catheter lumen through the side-arm tube lumen without preventing fluid flow through the catheter lumen; and

an antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device configured to be inserted through the side-arm tube lumen and the one-way valve into the catheter lumen, wherein the antimicrobial agent is configured to be released from the intervention device after the intervention device has been inserted into the catheter lumen.

2. (Original) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein

the catheter comprises a catheter body and an extension joined to a proximal end of the catheter body, the extension having a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough and in communication with the catheter lumen, and

the side-arm tube extends laterally from the catheter extension.

3. (Original) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein

the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device comprises an antimicrobial agent-bearing rod.

4. (Original) The infection management system of claim 3, wherein

the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod comprises a flexible polymer rod.

5. (Original) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein

the antimicrobial agent is iodine.

6. (Currently Amended) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein

a region of the catheter to be located within the patient's body comprises a material which permits passage of the ~~an~~ antimicrobial agent released from the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device from the catheter lumen to an outer surface of the catheter.

7. (Original) The infection management system of claim 3, further comprising:

a cap, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod is affixed to the cap, and the cap is adapted to seal a proximal end of the side-arm tube after the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod is inserted into the catheter lumen.

8. (Original) The infection management system of claim 7, wherein

the cap has a threaded portion that cooperates with a threaded portion on the side-arm tube.

9. (Original) The infection management system of claim 7, wherein

the cap is a stopper sized to frictionally engage and seal the proximal end of the side-arm tube.

10. (Currently Amended) An infection management method, comprising the steps of:

providing a catheter with a lumen extending therethrough, a side-arm tube extending laterally from a side of the catheter, wherein the side-arm tube is located in a region of the catheter which remains outside a patient's body and a lumen through the side-arm tube communicates with the catheter lumen, and a one-way valve located to prevent fluid flow from the catheter lumen through the side-arm tube lumen without preventing fluid flow through the catheter lumen; and

inserting an antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device through the side-arm tube and the one-way valve into the catheter lumen, wherein the antimicrobial agent is configured to be released from the intervention device after the intervention device has been inserted into the catheter lumen.

11. (Original) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein

the catheter comprises a catheter body and an extension joined to a proximal end of the catheter body, the extension having a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough and in communication with the catheter lumen, and

the side-arm tube extends laterally from the catheter extension.

12. (Original) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein

the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device comprises an antimicrobial agent-bearing rod.

13. (Original) The infection management method of claim 12, wherein

the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod comprises a flexible polymer rod.

14. (Original) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein

the antimicrobial agent is iodine.

15. (Currently Amended) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein

a region of the catheter to be located within the patient's body comprises a material which permits passage of the antimicrobial agent released from the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device from the catheter lumen to an outer surface of the catheter.

16. (Original) The infection management method of claim 10, further comprising:

a cap, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod is affixed to the cap, and the cap is adapted to seal a proximal end of the side-arm tube after the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod is inserted into the catheter lumen.

17. (Original) The infection management method of claim 16, wherein

the cap has a threaded portion that cooperates with a threaded portion on the side-arm tube.

18. (Original) The infection management method of claim 16, wherein

the cap is a stopper sized to frictionally engage and seal the proximal end of the side-arm tube.

19. (Currently Amended) An anti-infection catheter, comprising

a main catheter tube with a lumen extending therethrough;

a side-arm tube extending laterally from a side of the main catheter tube, wherein

the side-arm tube is located in a region of the catheter which remains outside a patient's body, and

a lumen through the side-arm tube communicates with the lumen of the main catheter tube;

a one-way valve adapted to permit passage of an antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device between the side-arm tube lumen and the main catheter tube lumen while preventing fluid flow from the main catheter tube lumen through the side-arm tube lumen, wherein the one-way valve does not prevent fluid flow through the main catheter tube lumen, wherein the antimicrobial agent is configured to be released from the intervention device after the intervention device has been inserted into the main catheter tube lumen.

20. (Original) The anti-infection catheter of claim 21, wherein

the main catheter tube comprises a catheter body and an extension joined to a proximal end of the catheter body, and

the side-arm tube extends laterally from the catheter extension.

21. (New) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device is configured to remain in the catheter lumen during fluid flow through the catheter lumen.

22. (New) The infection management system of claim 21, wherein the fluid flow is associated with a hemodialysis procedure.

23. (New) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device is configured to remain in the catheter lumen during fluid flow through the catheter lumen.

24. (New) The infection management system of claim 23, wherein the fluid flow is associated with a hemodialysis procedure.

25. (New) The anti-infection catheter of claim 19, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device is configured to remain in the main catheter tube lumen during fluid flow through the main catheter tube lumen.

26. (New) The infection management system of claim 25, wherein the fluid flow is associated with a hemodialysis procedure.